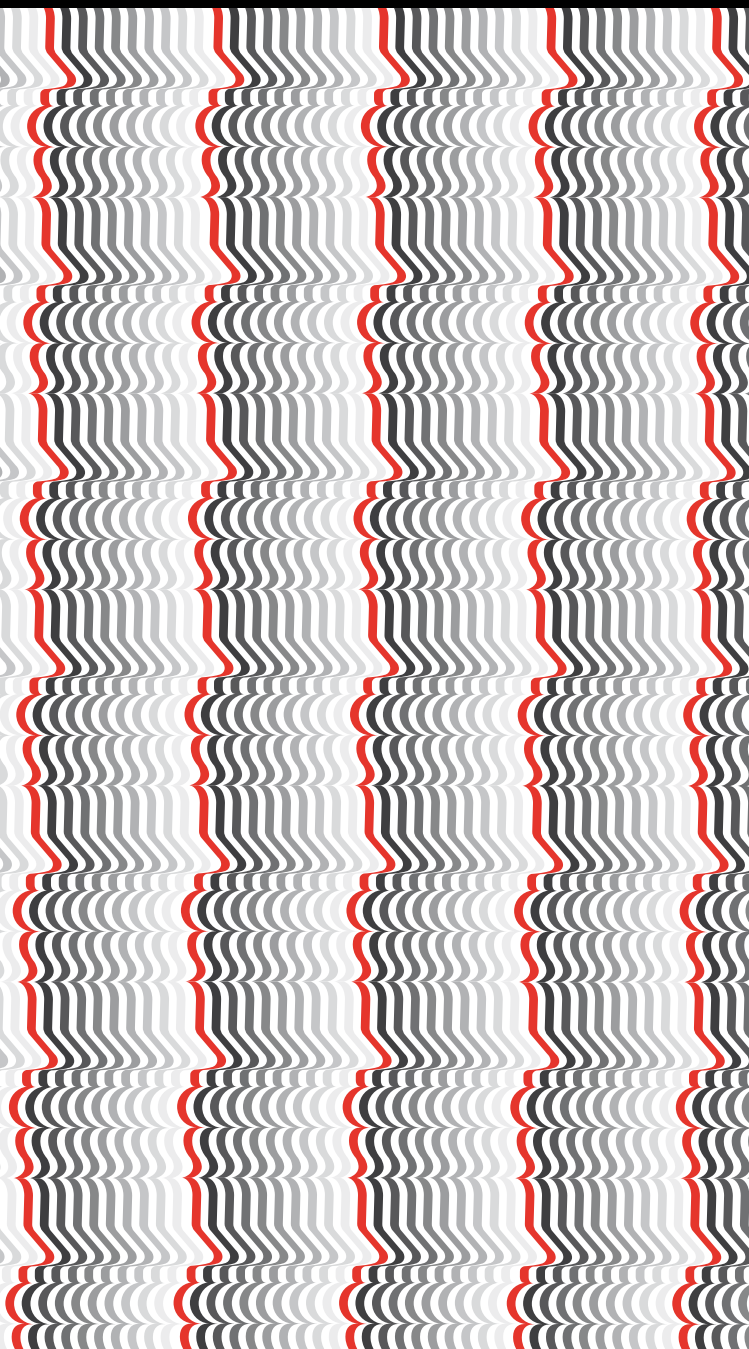


St George's Singers

2008-2009 Season

A Celebration of Youth



St George's Singers



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Matthew Hamilton

Accompanist

Jeffrey Makinson

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Tim Kennedy

Website

www.st-georges-singers.org.uk



Welcome to our 2008-2009 Season



Another busy and exciting season lies ahead. The culmination of last season was a performance Bach's *B minor Mass* at the Bridgewater Hall with the Manchester Camerata orchestra and a wonderful line-up of soloists. This was a thrilling work to learn and perform and to do so at the Bridgewater Hall made for a very special occasion.

There were however many other special occasions last year. We gave another live performance for the BBC Radio 4 Daily Service and toured to Dublin, singing at both Christ Church and St Patrick's cathedrals. Our first concert at the newly restored Gorton Monastery was a tremendous success and we were delighted to be joined by our President Joan Bakewell and by Terry Waite who gave thoughtful readings to complement our performance of the Rachmaninov *Vespers*. We feel very privileged to be able to sing there and are grateful to Joan for first suggesting that we do so. It is a wonderful venue for making music.

Our aim for the 2008-9 season - which we have titled 'A Celebration of Youth' - is to include young people in as much of our music making as possible. We get enormous pleasure from singing and want to share our enthusiasm and love of music-making with the new generation of musicians.

Our first concert is a repeat performance of *The Speech of Angels* at Gorton. Then in November we give a concert of Handel's great oratorio, *Israel in Egypt*, featuring young soloists from the Royal Northern College of Music. This year we will give two Christmas concerts, both featuring pupils from Poynton schools. For our spring concert in Manchester Cathedral we are joined by the stunning young brass players from Chetham's School of Music. Young musicians will also feature in our summer concert, celebrating the newly renovated gardens at Gorton Monastery.

The Choir goes from strength to strength, ably led by our outstanding team of professional musicians, Musical Director Neil Taylor, Assistant MD Matthew Hamilton and Accompanist Jeffrey Makinson. We continue to perform interesting and challenging music and we hope you will want to join us for our concerts during the year.

Anne Francis
Chair, St. George's Singers



Repeat performance by popular demand

Saturday 20 September 2008, 7.30 pm
The Monastery, Gorton Lane, Manchester

The Speech of Angels

An evening of music and words to uplift the spirit

Rachmaninov

Vespers

Górecki

Totus Tuus

Tavener

Nunc Dimittis

Conductor

Neil Taylor

Tenor

Stewart Campbell

Readers

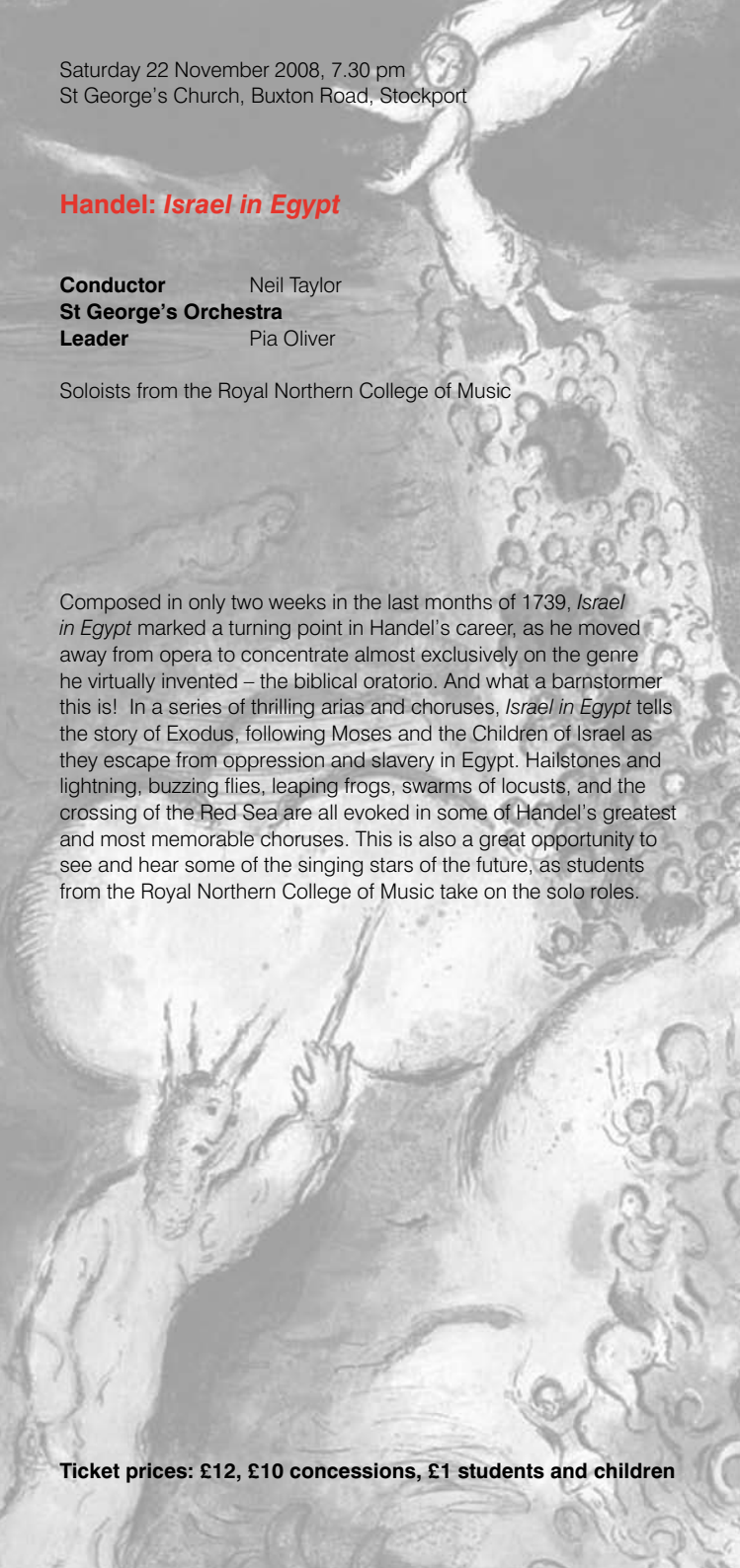
To be arranged

A Pugin masterpiece built by the Franciscans in the 1860s, Gorton Monastery has recently been re-opened following a £6 million renovation. This concert of choral music, echoing the spiritual essence of this wonderful building, was first given by St George's Singers in March 2008 to great acclaim. With so many unable to get tickets for the original concert, the Choir has decided to give a second performance, the proceeds from which will again go to the Gorton Monastery Trust to help with the ongoing restoration. With glorious music and specially chosen readings, we believe this will be a very memorable event.

'For music is truly the speech of angels' Carlyle

Ticket prices: £15, £12 concessions, £1 students and children

Coach transport is available from Poynton and Hazel Grove to Gorton Monastery - please contact Dave Francis on 01663 764012 for details. (Free for Friends of St George's)



Saturday 22 November 2008, 7.30 pm
St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport

Handel: *Israel in Egypt*

Conductor Neil Taylor
St George's Orchestra
Leader Pia Oliver

Soloists from the Royal Northern College of Music

Composed in only two weeks in the last months of 1739, *Israel in Egypt* marked a turning point in Handel's career, as he moved away from opera to concentrate almost exclusively on the genre he virtually invented – the biblical oratorio. And what a barnstormer this is! In a series of thrilling arias and choruses, *Israel in Egypt* tells the story of Exodus, following Moses and the Children of Israel as they escape from oppression and slavery in Egypt. Hailstones and lightning, buzzing flies, leaping frogs, swarms of locusts, and the crossing of the Red Sea are all evoked in some of Handel's greatest and most memorable choruses. This is also a great opportunity to see and hear some of the singing stars of the future, as students from the Royal Northern College of Music take on the solo roles.

Ticket prices: £12, £10 concessions, £1 students and children

Saturday 6 December 2008, 7.30 pm
St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport

Carols and Brass by Candlelight


with VBS Poynton Brass Band, Musical Director Alan Lawton MBE

Conductor Neil Taylor
Organ Tim Kennedy
Readers Pupils from Poynton primary schools

Join us for our traditional carol concert in the atmospheric candlelight of St George's Church. This year we welcome pupils from primary schools in Poynton to give the Christmas readings, and to join St George's Singers and the audience in singing some of your favourite carols. With mince pies and mulled wine in the interval, this is the ideal way to start your Christmas festivities.

Early booking recommended.

Ticket prices: £12, £10 concessions, £1 students and children



Saturday 20 December 2008, 7.00 pm
St George's Church, London Road, Poynton

A Christmas Celebration for St George's

Conductor Neil Taylor
Organ Tim Kennedy

2009 is the 150th anniversary of the building of the present St George's Church in Poynton. To mark the start of this very special year, the Choir is putting on a second carol concert in our 'home' church, with contributions from the children of Poynton.

Ticket prices: £10, £8 concessions, £1 students and children

Saturday 17 January 2009
9.30-10.15 am (registration for singers), 6.00 pm (concert)
St George's Church, London Road, Poynton

2009 Singing Day

Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle

Conductor Neil Taylor
Accompanists Jeffrey Makinson and Graham Eccles
Soprano Nicola Mills
Mezzo Joyce Tinsley
Tenor Richard Dowling
Baritone Marcus Farnsworth

If you enjoy singing, why not join us for a great day of music making – and have the chance to perform one of the great choral works, all in a day.

Rossini wrote the *Petite Messe Solennelle* near the end of his long life for private performance in the chapel of the Countess Louise Pillet-Will. Allegedly described by Napoleon III as 'neither little nor solemn', it is a refined and elegant work, and was originally scored for the unusual ensemble of four soloists, chorus, two pianos and a harmonium.

In addition to being one of the successful operatic composers of his generation, Rossini was also a renowned host and gourmet. So he would undoubtedly have approved of the delicious home-made food served on our Singing Day! And this year we extend a special invitation to young singers to come and join us at a special student rate of only £4. More information is available in our Singing Day brochure.

Our Singing Days are extremely popular, so early booking is recommended.

Ticket prices: £20 (to sing – including music hire), £5 (audience)

For more information and an application form, download our Singing Day brochure from www.st-georges-singers.org.uk, or complete and return the Application Form at the back of this brochure.

Saturday 25 April 2009, 7.30 pm
Manchester Cathedral, Victoria Street, Manchester

Music for Sacred Spaces

Conductor Neil Taylor
Organ Jeffrey Makinson
Chethams Brass Ensemble

Gabrieli In Ecclesiis, Jubilate Deo, Magnificat a 17
Schütz Psalms 100 and 115
Pärt Berliner Messe, The Beatitudes

Ever since mediaeval times, composers have exploited the architecture and acoustics of chapels and cathedrals to create sublime musical effects for the greater glory of God. Sixteenth-century Venice saw this art taken to new heights by Giovanni Gabrieli, who used the organ lofts, balconies and immense size of St Mark's Basilica as a stage for multiple choruses and instruments located around its shimmering spaces.

In this concert - and on the day celebrated in Venice as St Mark's Day - with the young members of Chetham's Brass Ensemble, we recreate the splendours of Venice in Manchester Cathedral. The concert will also feature works by Gabrieli's pupil, Heinrich Schütz, and by the modern Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt, whose study of Renaissance music led him to develop his 'tintinnabuli' (the ringing of bells) technique, demonstrated beautifully in the *Berliner Messe*.

Ticket prices: £12, £10 concessions, £1 students and children

Coach transport is available from Poynton and Hazel Grove to Manchester Cathedral - please contact Dave Francis on 01663 764012 for details. (Free to Friends of St George's)

Saturday 20 June 2009, 7.30 pm
The Monastery, Gorton, Manchester

In a Monastery Garden

Conductor Neil Taylor
Piano Jeffrey Makinson

A concert for a summer evening, including

Rutter A Sprig of Thyme

Britten Five Flower Songs

Grainger Brigg Fair

plus English folk songs, madrigals and part-songs

The garden was the centre of the monastic community, supplying food and medicines to nurture the body, flowers to delight the spirit, and a space for quiet contemplation. Gorton Monastery's garden has now been brought back to life as part of the overall restoration of this magnificent building, and this concert by St George's Singers, joined by pupils from local schools, will feature music and song redolent of a summer's evening in the garden.

Please join us at the Monastery, wander through the garden, enjoy a glass of wine and some strawberries, then sit back and prepare to be delighted.

Ticket prices: £15, £12 concessions, £1 students and children

Coach transport is available from Poynton and Hazel Grove to Gorton Monastery - please contact Dave Francis on 01663 764012 for details. (Free to Friends of St George's)

Friends and Patrons

St George's Singers finances all its own concerts, no small task when performing in venues such as The Bridgewater Hall, or touring overseas. So we rely heavily on fund-raising activities, and particularly on our Friends and other Supporters.

Friends

The Friends of St George's Singers was formed by families, friends and former members of the Choir as an easy way to stay in touch with us, and enable them to support our activities.

The Friends play an important part in the social and musical life of the Choir, as well as providing vital financial support. Annual membership of the Friends costs only £10 for Red Rose, and £25 for Gold Rose Membership, though many Friends make more generous donations. Many long-standing Friends have also been invited to become Honorary Life Friends, in recognition of their contribution to the Choir.

In return Friends receive:

- reserved seats at concerts where available
- the choir newsletter, Hemiola
- free coach transport to city centre venues, when available
- invitations to social events, open rehearsals and pre-concert receptions
- special rates on CDs
- acknowledgement in programmes
- early notice of concert information and priority booking

To join our Friends, simply complete the Application Form in this brochure, or contact Jean Egerton on friends@st-georges-singers.org.uk, Tel 01625 871381.

Patrons

We have recently formed our Patrons Group, individual and corporate supporters of the Choir who contribute funds for specific purposes, such as sponsoring concerts, soloists or other Choir activities. All Patrons are acknowledged in our Season Brochure and concert programmes, and depending on the level of support, on relevant concert publicity.

If you or your company are interested in becoming a Patron, please contact the Chair, Anne Francis: chair@st-georges-singers.org.uk or Tel 01663 764012.

2008-9 Season Patrons

We would like to offer our grateful thanks to all our Patrons for their support during the current season:

Rehearsal piano sponsorship

Frank Millington

Season supporters

HSBC Bank plc

Macclesfield Borough Council

Intuitive Media Ltd

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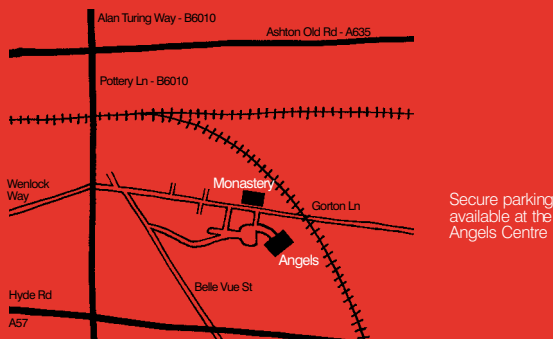
The Innovation Partnership Ltd

Concert Venues

St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 6NU



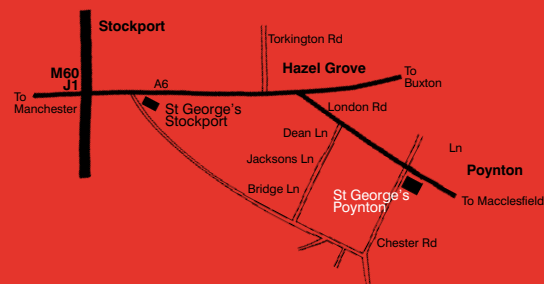
The Monastery, Gorton Lane, Gorton, Manchester M12 5WF



Manchester Cathedral, Victoria Street, Manchester M3 1SX



St George's Church, London Road, Poynton SK12 1AF



Ticket Information

There are four easy ways to buy tickets for our concerts:

Online booking To buy online using Paypal or credit card, or to download a booking form, visit our website at: www.st-georges-singers.org.uk, and go to 'Online Tickets'

Telephone Ring the Ticket Secretary on 01663 764012

Email Send an email outlining your requirements to: tickets@st-georges-singers.org.uk.

Post Complete the Application Form overleaf and post with your cheque, payable to 'St George's Singers', to the Ticket Secretary, 11 The Ridgeway South, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 2JG

Remember that concessions are available for Senior Citizens, with further reductions for students and children.

For tickets to sing in the Singing Day on 17 January 2009, please see our separate Singing Day brochure, available to download from the website at www.st-georges-singers.org.uk, or tick the appropriate box on the Application Form overleaf, or contact Gillian Banks, Tel 01925 213949, Email gillian.m.banks@tesco.net.

Season Tickets

Season Tickets, offering savings and guaranteed tickets, are available for both full price and concessionary rates. The Season Ticket prices are £55 (full) and £45 (concession), giving savings of £11/£9. This covers five concerts (one of either the Stockport or the Poynton carol concert), but does not include the Singing Day concert.

To join our Friends

If you would like to become a Friend of St George's Singers, please complete the Application Form overleaf, and send with a cheque made payable to 'St George's Singers', to St George's Singers Friends, 11 The Ridgeway South, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 2JG.

Mailing list

For early notification of concerts, ticket availability, special events, and to receive a copy of our Choir newsletter, please register with our Mailing List by completing the Application Form overleaf.

Application Form

detach along dotted line

About St George's Singers

Entry to the Choir is by audition, and all Singers are re-auditioned every three years. New members can join at any time (although there are waiting lists for some sections), and are welcome to come along to a few rehearsals before auditioning. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings in St George's Church Hall, Poynton, SK12 1AF (located on the A523 London Road) from 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm. For more information about joining St George's Singers, please contact our Membership Secretary Fraser Ross, Tel 0161 291 9732, Email fraser.ross2@ntlworld.com

Although a large group with around 120 members, St George's Singers is an extremely friendly and welcoming Choir. We hold a wide range of social events throughout the season, including the annual Social Evening (an opportunity for choir members to take the solo stage!), wine tastings, ceilidhs, and regular walks in Cheshire and the High Peak.

St George's Singers regularly tours in the UK and overseas. Recent tours have included Poland, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Eire, Suffolk and Wales.

Once a year we hold an Open Rehearsal, which this season is on Tuesday 27 January 2009. Anyone can come and sit in at the rehearsal, enjoy a glass of wine and have a chat afterwards with Choir members. For more information, please contact our Secretary, Jacqui Smith, Email enquiries@st-georges-singers.org.uk, Tel 01625 533779 or visit our website.

If you want to read more about St George's Singers and our activities, pick up a copy of Hemiola, our regular Choir newsletter, from our Publicity Officer Susan Hodgson, publicity@st-georges-singers.org.uk, Tel 0161 338 3013, or sign up to our Mailing List on our website.

www.st-georges-singers.org.uk

Title		First Name		Surname		
Address						
Postcode		Telephone		Email		
Friends I would like to: <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Red Rose Friend for the 2008-09 Season and enclose a cheque for £10 <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Gold Rose Friend for the 2008-09 Season and enclose a cheque for £25 I am already a Friend, and would like to: <input type="checkbox"/> Renew my Red Rose membership for the 2008-09 Season and enclose a cheque for £10 <input type="checkbox"/> Renew my Gold Rose membership for the 2008-09 Season and enclose a cheque for £25						
Mailing List Registration Please include me on your Mailing List <input type="checkbox"/> agree to my details being stored on the Choir's database and used for publicity relating to St George's Singers only, and understand my details will not be divulged to third parties. I would prefer to receive information by: <input type="checkbox"/> post or <input type="checkbox"/> email						
Concert	Date	Price	No. full price	No. concession	No. Stdn/childn	Total £
The Speech of Angels	20/9/08	£15, £12 conc, £1 stdnt/child				
	22/11/08	£12, £10 conc, £1 stdnt/child				
Carols & Brass by Candlelight	6/12/08	£12, £10 conc, £1 stdnt/child				
A Christmas Celebration	20/12/08	£10, £8 conc, £1 stdnt/child				
Petite Messe Solennelle Singers:	17/1/09	£5 (audience tickets only)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me a Singing Day brochure					
Music for Sacred Spaces	25/4/09	£12, £10 conc, £1 stdnt/child				
In a Monastery Garden	20/6/09	£15, £12 conc, £1 stdnt/child				
Season Tickets		Full Price £55, Concessions £45				
Grand Total £						

St George's Singers was formed in Poynton, Cheshire in 1956 with 23 founding members drawn from the local community. Today, the Choir has nearly 120 members who travel from Cheshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, and is widely recognised as one of the most enterprising and innovative choirs in the North of England.

The Choir has an extensive repertoire, including classical, modern and newly commissioned choral works, performs in venues throughout Greater Manchester and Cheshire, including The Bridgewater Hall and the Royal Northern College of Music, and tours regularly in the UK and overseas.

2008 – 2009 Season at a glance

20 September 2008 The Speech of Angels

22 November 2008 Israel in Egypt

6 December 2008 Carols & Brass by Candlelight

20 December 2008 A Christmas Celebration

17 January 2009 Singing Day – Petite Messe Solennelle

27 January 2009 Open Rehearsal

25 April 2009 Music for Sacred Spaces

20 June 2009 In a Monastery Garden

Ticket hotline 01663 764012

Online ticket bookings www.st-georges-singers.org.uk

General enquiries 01625 533779

St George's Singers is a Registered Charity, No 508686, and a member of Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies

